Indigenous Advisory Circle

Minutes of the Meeting of April 10, 2018

Present at STP: Grafton Antone, Eileen Antone, Brenda Simpson, Lori Campbell, Chris Read, Rick Myers

On the Phone: Marisha Roman

Guests: Jaydum Hunt, Diana Parry, Kelly Davis, Joanne

1. Opening and Introductions

The meeting began at 2:15 with Marisha presiding. Grafton offered an opening prayer and those present introduced themselves. It was agreed that we should make it a practice to begin with opening greetings or comments around the table.

2. Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

3. Minutes of January 29th

The minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Principal's Report

5a. Brock: Brock has found that his responsibilities in Ottawa will necessitate his stepping down from the IAC. Brock has been a member of the Circle from its inception and we deeply appreciate his service over the years.

5b. Skills Matrix: There was some discussion of the skills matrix that Brock circulated. As Brock will no longer be a member of the IAC, it makes sense to re-locate responsibility for the matrix to St. Paul's. It was agreed that Lori would talk a look at the form and see if it might be modified slightly now that it will be housed here.

5c. Ceremonial Firegrounds: Work on Ceremonial Firegrounds was not quite completed in the fall. The contractors are now back on the job. A beautiful granite turtle has been crafted to serve as the base for the fire. Planters for the medicines have been installed. Hydro-seeding will take place next week.
Staff would like to hold the formal opening for the facility on June 21, National Indigenous People's Day. There was support from IAC members for the idea and several indicated an interest in attending. Suggestions were also offered for the formal of the opening.

6. Director's Report

6a. Empowering People: Indigenization  Lori circulated a draft report that she has prepared for the UW Issues Paper that will contribute overall UW Strategic Planning. Some key points: at U15 schools, the model is to have a senior person reporting in to either the Provost or the President; most are moving away from the term "Indigenization" in favour of terms like "Indigenous engagement;" most provide core funding rather than project funding; many are looking at set-asides for research funding and a special initiative to hire whole cohorts of Indigenous scholars.

6b. End of Term Feast: Approximately 60 people were in attendance for the End of Term Feast. This is a significant increase over previous Feasts. We may have to consider re-locating.

6c. Indigenous Graduation: Fourteen grads attended the annual graduation event at Bingeman's, including four from UW.

6d. Launch of Shatitsiróhta: The launch of the new name in February was a great success. Staff and students felt very supported to have the Chancellor and other dignitaries in attendance.

6e. Council of Allies: A number of non-Indigenous faculty and staff members have been very valuable in advancing the work of the WISC and supporting our students. We would like to adopt a more formal arrangement with them, appointing them to something like a Council of Allies. It was agreed that this initiative would provide value. Rick and Lori will develop draft terms of reference and bring them to our next meeting.

7. Presentation by Diana Perry

Diana reviewed the process and timelines of the Indigenization Strategy Steering Committee.

Recommendations are now emerging from the working groups and it is expected that all of them will report by the end of May. A draft report will be prepared and circulated for internal and external review before it is submitted to the Provost and President. A town hall will be held to obtain feedback prior to the formulation of the final report.

Other Steering Committee activities include talks on campus; a trip to Six Nations for working group members later this month; and a trip to Trent University in September.

Questions from Diana: Are there other stakeholders that the Steering Committee may have missed? Are there people who should be consulted as external reviewers (apart from the IAC, which will certainly be consulted)?

Brenda wondered if there would be a way to consult with Anishinaabe communities as well, for instance, Cape Croker and the Mississauga of the New Credit.
It was suggested that the Steering Committee should consult Indigenous experts from other universities that have made significant progress; for instance, Hayden King at Ryerson, Rick Monture at McMaster, Susan Hill and Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo at U of T, Denise Baxter at Lakehead and David Newhouse at Trent. Professor Jeffrey Hewitt, who is now in private practice, would be able to offer useful comments from the perspective of change management. Lori mentioned that we have a connection to him through one of our research projects. It was also suggested that the Steering Committee consult the team that put together the successful MOOC at the University of Alberta. A question arose about the number of contributing Indigenous members in the Working Groups versus the number that were originally placed on the Working Groups. Lori will follow up with Kelly and report back.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Next Meeting

We agreed to meet again on June 21 in the late afternoon, after the formal opening of the Ceremonial Firegrounds and prior to the STP Board meeting. This meeting will provide us with an opportunity to review the initial recommendations of the Indigenization Steering Committee.

10. Closing

Eileen offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Rick Myers
Secretary